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Australian PORK NEWSPAPER

Vol 23. No. 9 September 2019 Australian Pork Newspaper PO Box 387 Cleveland 4163 Phone (07) 3286 1833 Fax (07) 3821 2637 Email ben@porknews.com.au



Princi Smallgoods Deni Sekuloski, Daniel Matliooski and Jessie Pendriagh.

Australia's best bacon announced

IN what could be deemed Australia's tastiest competition, Princi Smallgoods in Perth have been named as producing the best bacon in the nation, just in time for International Bacon Day on August 31.

The nationally available full rasher bacon, made from 100 percent Australian pork, was the star of the Australian PorkMark Bacon Awards and beat out over 140 entries from across the country.

Director, Pino Princi says the secret to Princi's success is their family recipe and the locally sourced pork they use to produce the winning bacon.

"The story of Princi bacon began over five decades ago and our recipe has travelled from Italy to Australia. What really sets our bacon apart though, I believe, is the quality of the pork that we begin with," said Princi.

"Australian bacon is iconic and to be recognised for producing the best in the nation – we're really proud of that."

Southlands Quality Meats in Canberra took out first place honours in the Short Cut category, followed by Westridge Meats from Toowoomba in Queensland in second spot.

Loveday's Quality Meats on the Gold Coast and Eurostyle Smallgoods in Perth were named equal third with their short cut bacons.

In the Full Rasher category, Gray's Modern Meat Mart in Toowoomba was announced second place to Princi Smallgoods and Griffith Butchery in Canberra, third.

Australian Pork Limited Marketing Communications Manager, Mitch Edwards says the competition shines a light on smallgoods makers who are using 100 percent Australian pork to produce their bacon, which is great news for both pig farmers and bacon-lovers.

"Bacon is an Aussie household staple but there's a high chance the family favourite that shoppers are selecting isn't made with Australian pork," said Edwards.

"Many people are surprised to learn that 80 percent of bacon sold in Australia is made using imported pork. Aussie bacon meets our high safety standards and celebrates fresh, quality, local ingredients."

"If you want to support Aussie pig farmers, by buying bacon made from 100 percent Australian pork, look for either the pink Australian Pork logo or make sure the bar chart on the country of origin label has a percentage of over 90 percent of Australian ingredients."

The process behind naming these bacons as Australia's best was fiercely contested, not only by the entrants, but with a spot on the judging panel being a hot ticket.

All entries were judged in their raw and cooked form by a panel of four passionate bacon connoisseurs, Fleischmeister Horst Schurter, chefs Simon Bestley, Adam Moore and Paul McDonald.

Biosecurity is a fundamental cornerstone of Australia's pig industry

OVER the course of my first month as chief executive officer of APL, I've been constantly seeing the evidence that biosecurity is a fundamental cornerstone of Australia's pig industry.

Our hard-earned reputation for disease-free pork and the rigorous quarantine measures upholding that reputation are both irreplaceable.

The success of Australian pork, confidence to invest in the future and the livelihoods of the people employed in our industry – many of whom I've been fortunate to meet in recent weeks – depend on a steadfast defence of our biosecurity status.

That's why APL emphatically supported last month's court decision in Western Australia, where two men were sent to jail for deliberately and illegally importing pig semen from Denmark.

Trust amongst pig producers within our industry and the trust other farmers and the community have in our sector, has been tested by the WA case.

The penalty is harsh, especially on a personal level for the families involved, but the crime represents a shocking violation of our biosecurity laws.

The judgement should act as a strong deterrent for any person or business tempted to circumvent Australia's strict biosecurity laws.

If we are alarmed about the ongoing risk international travellers present when they try to bring pork from overseas into Australia, we are naturally outraged



Point of View

by MARGO ANDRAE CEO



than 1000 pork items being intercepted every week – the equivalent of four pigs arriving in the country every seven days.

The figures serve as a startling reminder, as does the imported semen case in WA, that it only takes one reckless action to put our entire industry at risk.

The figures also confirm that more needs to be done to ensure greater awareness and compliance with our import laws because any breach compromises the integrity, safety and value of Australian food production.

On behalf of Australia's 2500 pig producers and the 36,000 supply chain employees working across our \$5.3 billion pork industry, APL continues to work with other agricultural industry bodies and government to strengthen our biosecurity framework.

In that regard, I encourage producers to make use of a new national biosecurity website which has been launched to improve the community's access to biosecurity information.

The information is tailored to suit each visitor's particular interests, so it has relevant information for farmers, as well as other visitors such as online shoppers and international travellers.

The website is available here: <https://beta.biosecurity.gov.au/>.

when members of our own industry knowingly betray fellow producers in the pursuit of an unfair competitive advantage.

Any threat to our biosecurity status threatens our standing amongst consumers and our market access.

That, in turn, threatens the future of Australian producers and the rural communities in which they operate.

Trust amongst pig producers within our industry and the trust other farmers and the community have in our sector, has been tested by the WA case.

Headlines and radio grabs talking about the biosecurity breach have set us back, robbing us of opportunities to continue to tell the compelling stories of Australian pork and the Australians who produce it.

We know the risks that imported fresh pork or genetic material pose in terms of the potential transfer of foreign diseases and the health of our national pig herd.

As such, APL supported authorities with

their investigations into these breaches since they were uncovered in 2017.

Of course, since then biosecurity risks for our industry, especially those arising from the global pandemic of African swine fever, have increased.

APL is absolutely focussed on preventing African swine fever from reaching our shores.

And we remain alert to the ongoing risks of other potential biosecurity risks.

For instance, if foot and mouth disease was spread to Australia, it would be catastrophic for Australia's entire livestock production system with estimated economic costs of an FMD outbreak in Australia of \$50 billion over 10 years.

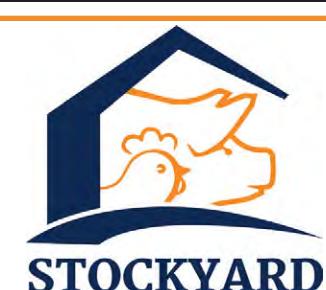
In the past fortnight, Federal Agriculture Minister Bridget McKenzie confirmed that between last November and May, 23 tonnes of pork was seized at Australian borders.

This volume is the accumulation of more

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Australian Pork NEWSPAPER

Pig Industry Calendar of Events

2019

SEP 21 - OCT 1 – Royal Melbourne Show, Melbourne Showgrounds VIC royalshow.com.au

OCT 1 - 2 – Animal AgTech Innovation Summit Europe, Amsterdam, Netherlands www.animalagtech.eu

OCT 19 - 21 – Leman China Swine Conference, Zhengzhou, China www.vetmed.umn.edu/news-events/leman-china-swine-conference

NOV 13 - 15 – 2019 Pig Welfare Symposium, Minneapolis, US www.pork.org/events/pig-welfare-symposium

NOV 17-20 – Australasian Pig Science Association Conference, Adelaide, SA www.apsa.asn.au

NOV 27 - 29 – Fatty Pig Conference, Okinawa Prefecture Gender Equality Centre, Okinawa, Japan www.pig333.com/calendar/5th-fatty-pig-conference-2017

DEC 10 - 11 – The Pork Show, Quebec City, Canada www.leporcshow.com

2020

JAN 7-9 – Banff Pork Seminar, Banff, Canada www.banffpork.ca

How to supply event details: Send all details to Australian Pork Newspaper, PO Box 387, Cleveland, Qld 4163, call 07 3286 1833 fax: 07 3821 2637, email: ben@porknews.com.au

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Responsible use of antimicrobials – key messages from Dr. Mandy Nevel's visit

THROUGH APL, our industry is a signatory to the Australian Animal Sector National Antimicrobial Resistance Plan, together with other livestock sectors, and has committed to the ideals of antimicrobial stewardship.

The plan relies on reducing antimicrobial use together with ongoing resistance surveillance and restriction of antibiotics of critical importance to human health.

This requires good biosecurity, pig health, nutrition and hygiene practices.

With this, the challenges faced by Australian producers are the same as those faced by those in other countries.

Some countries, including the UK, have succeeded in implementing recording systems for antimicrobial use which has required co-operation across many different organisations - there is much we can learn from them.

To assist with this, APL recently supported Dr Mandy Nevel, senior veterinary manager from the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board, UK, to be the keynote speaker at the Australian Pig Veterinarians conference in Cairns from July 31 to August 2, 2019.

Dr Nevel shared how the UK pork industry has successfully reduced antimicrobial use and discussed the system being introduced to record antimicrobial use in pigs.

These messages were also presented to producers and veterinarians at meetings held in Toowoomba, Young, Bendigo, Roseworthy and Welshpool from August 5-9, which in total attracted over 160 attendees.

These talks were enthusiastically received by producers.

In modern livestock production, to manage large



by HEATHER CHANNON
Research and Innovation
General Manager



numbers of animals, veterinarians need access to antimicrobials to treat disease and uphold animal welfare.

Mandy stressed the need for responsible use, not just reduced use, of antimicrobials.

In some cases, further reduction will compromise animal welfare.

It's a matter of carefully assessing the health risk with the herd veterinarian and working out an approach, which uses medication when necessary but as little as possible.

The issue of voluntarily restricting the use of antimicrobials of critical importance to humans was also raised.

The UK opted to protect the use of those antimicrobials licensed for use in pigs.

This has been supported by the production by the UK Pig Veterinary Society of evidence-based guidance materials on how to use antimicrobials responsibly and the setting of antimicrobial use targets.

For our industry, the Antimicrobial Prescribing Guidelines for Pigs are now available on the Australian Veterinary Association website and accessible via australianpork.com.au/ams.

I encourage you to have a look as it's well worth a read.

The UK's five-year antimicrobial resistance strategy 2013-2018 was replaced with a 20-year vi-

PCU is a unit of measurement developed by the European Medicines Agency that takes into account the animal population as well as the estimated weight of each particular animal at the time of treatment with antimicrobials.

This system allows an aggregated anonymised national figure to be determined.

Producers are responsible for submitting data to the database, which is held by AHDB.

AHDB seeks producer permission via a tick box system to use their data according to rules agreed with industry, including who can access it and how it may be used.

The system now has a benchmarking facility allowing comparisons to be made between farms – producers can opt into this to obtain either quarterly or annual reports of usage and how their farm ranks on a national level.

The UK's pig industry has reported declines in antimicrobial use by over 50 percent since 2015.

In 2015, usage was 278mg/PCU, reducing to 131 mg/PCU in 2017 and 110 mg/PCU in 2018.

The data taken from eMB represent 89 percent of pigs slaughtered in the UK.

Mandy stated these reductions in usage may be due to several factors.

They include the Red Tractor quality assurance scheme adding eMB antimicrobial recording into their pig standards, the development of a new benchmarking tool in eMB to enable comparisons between farms and continuing biosecurity improvements by the wider industry.

These measures put the UK industry well on track to achieve their target of 99mg/PCU by 2020.

For Australia, Mandy's message in relation to

metrics was simple - decide on the metrics we wish to use and measure usage.

We are now exploring with Mandy the potential to road test AHDB's system here and will be further discussing metrics with pig veterinarians.

Overall, to meet our responsibilities in relation to AMS, an increased focus on good management practices to prevent and manage disease will be required.

Biosecurity, hygiene, pig flow, space allowance, air quality, facility maintenance and staff training all play a role.

APL is continuing to develop materials to support you and encourages you to seek leadership and guidance about the responsible use of antimicrobials from your vet.

The importance of water quality was also highlighted by Mandy during her presentations.

Antimicrobials administered through water require good quality water and clean pipes to ensure your antimicrobials work well.

For access to some great resources and to find out more, visit pork.ahdb.org.uk/environment-buildings/water-soil-and-air/water-quality-and-quan-tity/

Pork CRC has also funded work in this area, the report can be accessed via porkcrc.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/2A-118-Drinking-Water-Quality-Final-Report.pdf

Mandy's visit provided us all with the opportunity to learn of challenges and issues being faced by UK pig producers and approaches that are being used to overcome them.

For further information on items discussed in this article, please contact me on 0423 056 045 or heather.channon@australianpork.com.au.

What's the most Australian way to eat bacon?

WE asked and Australia, as a nation you told us.

Whilst millennials have attempted to create a cult following for smashed avocado and bacon, the Aussie classic of a bacon and egg roll still reigns supreme.

In a nationwide survey, 45 percent of Australians declared they enjoyed bacon and egg rolls as opposed to bacon and avo, which came in at only six percent.

A bacon jaffle supposedly made famous by celebrity chef, Colin Fassnidge, received a sad two percent of the vote.

Just over 3000 Australians responded to the survey with the news breaking just in time for International Bacon Day on August 31.

Interestingly, just over three quarters of participants were surprised to learn that 80 percent of bacon sold in Australia is

made from imported pork.

Australian Pork's Mitch Edwards says now more than ever, people want to know where their food comes from and these results reaffirm there is a job to be done.

"Many people are surprised to learn that 80 percent of bacon sold in Australia is made using imported pork and we want to raise awareness of this

to allow people to make more informed decisions, said Edwards.

"Aussie bacon meets our high safety standards and celebrates fresh, quality, local ingredients. If I can choose food for my family that has been grown fresh here in Australia, versus something that has been shipped halfway around the world, it's an easy decision every time."



Bacon and egg roll.

Another timely announcement was that of the best bacon in Australia, with Princi Smallgoods from Perth – available nationwide – being declared as the best bacon in the nation.

Princi's bacon, made from 100 percent Australian pork, was the star of the Australian PorkMark Bacon Awards and beat out over 140 entries from



Colin Fassnidge's Bacon Jaffle.

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Bacon and building Australian

SINCE we introduced the pink PorkMark back in 2009, we have celebrated the best Australian bacon and ham each year, in order to highlight just how much imported pig meat is going into smallgoods in Australia.

Whilst bacon is a joyful taste experience, the chocolate of meat if you will, over the last few years we have struggled to get the message out to enough consumers.

This year the team decided to try a different approach.

The team includes all of APL but the leaders were Tenita Campion (who is responsible for the PorkMark Ham and Bacon Awards and their promotion), Ashley Gray (a Kiwi import from Beef and Lamb New Zealand), Julia Unwin (who oversees both PorkMark and the differentiation of Australian pork) and our original PorkStar Mitch Edwards (who has now become even more famous as a contestant on Channel 9's "The Block").

The rest of APL, and several producers



Marketing Matters
by PETER HAYDON
General Manager Marketing



mucked in to help amplify the campaign.

The Food Service team worked with chefs to create content, the advertising team provided digital support and allowed PorkMark and Country of Origin loose on the socials and Danang Prasetyo assisted on a new Awards platform and Survey Monkey.

Peter Smith helped us get the producers involved for the first time ever and the rest of the APL team, producers, wholesalers and State farming organisations shared the survey with their networks which saw us reach a statistically significant sample size.

The aim remained to celebrate the winners of

the PorkMark Australian Bacon Awards in the media.

Previously this activity ran over a 'Bacon Week' but last year we shifted it to align with International Bacon Day, to tie in the awareness message around imported bacon products.

This year we shifted away from a celebration message, to an awareness raising message and commenced our communications much earlier with the media and influencers.

Ashley also worked really hard on local media around each state winner.

In order to engage consumers and generate further media hooks, we also launched a survey across our social media

platforms, asking people 'what's the most Australian way to eat your bacon?'

We were aiming for 1000 respondents and finished with over 3000!

The winner will receive a year's supply of award-winning bacon, so it was a pretty good incentive!

This angle gave us another shot at coverage this week.

We also tied in more activity this year with APL's sponsorship of the Kingaroy Bacon Festival, held over three days in August, and attended by over 10,000 people.

APL sponsored the weather live crosses from Sunrise at this event, as well as running a producer's meeting and working closely with Sunpork on the event.

At the time of writing this, International Bacon Day is yet to happen, but we have already hit an audience reach of over 16.9 million.

Smashing the previous record from 2011 of 13.5m!

That's five times the amount from last year and headed into the stratosphere.

Australian young pork leaders

THE most recent Australian Pork Young Leaders Meeting was held at the beginning of July 2019 in Toowoomba.

It was attended by 25 young pig industry members from Queensland, NSW, Victoria and the Australian Capital and facilitated by Clark Forbes from PIC.

As has been the case at previous meetings, members of the APYL group shared their respective roles and experiences within the industry, as well as provided insight into what they're expecting from the future.

Member speakers at this most recent meeting were:

- Zelda Nel (SunPork Farms Tong Park);
- Locksley Bishop (Burnett Pork/Sunnynook Farms);
- Chris Stevenson (Collins Wholesale Meats/ Gilly's Smallgoods); and
- Elsie Dodd (BEC Feed Solutions).

The meeting also included presentations from guest speakers.

• Kylie Lee from TAFE QLD, Toowoomba asked the group about what their businesses need in the training and education space, and where the skills shortages are across

industry more broadly. The group suggested there would be benefit to increased training opportunities in the following areas:

- ◊ Basic maintenance skills and reporting;
- ◊ Basic understanding of biosecurity;
- ◊ Livestock handling and husbandry; and
- ◊ Teamwork and conflict management.

It was also agreed by the group that the delivery of training should include both practical and theoretical content and be flexible in terms of location and timing.

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• Kylie Lee from TAFE QLD, Toowoomba asked the group about what their businesses need in the training and education space, and where the skills shortages are across

by whether or not a person can deal with the outcome or consequences; before making a decision, a person should consider the level of regret they will have if their decision has a bad result; and

◊ Good decisions are informed decisions. Right decisions can only be informed by hindsight.

The APYL group is supported by DAF QLD and APL to provide the next generation of Australia's pork industry with the opportunity to network, share experiences, and develop new skills.

If the testimonials given by members after the last meeting are any indication, this is well and truly being accomplished:

"APYL provides access to knowledge and information on topics that greatly benefit to pig production but not always readily available to the industry."

"APYL has given me a platform from which to draw inspiration and motivation in my professional life through networking and development activities with like-minded individuals."

"An invaluable opportunity for professional development with the up and coming of the Australian pig industry, with young representatives from all aspects and companies surrounding pig production and agriculture."

"Personally, I find the APYL meetings a great opportunity to continue to develop my own skills and industry knowledge, as well as being a great way to network with industry members that are a similar age. From a business point of view, I think APYL has value because it's a chance for us to support the development of the next generation of the pig industry and help enable ongoing interaction between the members of the group."

"The APYL group has such a great environment, all members are really open and honest which leads to some great discussions that are very relevant to my pigery business."

"The sessions have been a great way to increase our network of young "up and comers" in the industry, and we are covering such a wide range of people from farms to services across Australia. Having a good core group of people has enabled us to develop those networks so we can now reach out to each for support or advice when working on different projects or just day to day operations on farm and in our businesses."

"I love being around the future men and women of the pork industry - they are smart, articulate and passionate about pork production, it's inspiring and exciting."

If you or someone you know would be interested in joining the APYL group, please contact ashley.norval@australianpork.com.au, sara.willis@daf.qld.gov.au or a member of the steering committee for more information.

Rachael Bryant, APL Manager Technology Transfer and Industry Capability

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Smallgoods is big business at D'Orsogna

HAVING referred last month to retiring D'Orsogna Managing Director Brad Thomason, the time is right to write a little about his replacement at the helm of the iconic WA head-quartered smallgoods company, now positioned as a significant operator on the east coast after 70 years building a reputation for product excellence and corporate integrity.

D'Orsogna Managing Director Greig Smith joined the company in 2018 after four years as Chief Operating Officer with Milne Agrigroup, well known for its branded product Mt Barker Chicken.

Before that he was General Manager, Operations, WA, for seven years with Inghams, which followed three years as Inghams Farming Manager in NSW.

Born and raised in South Africa, he graduated with a BSc in Animal Science from the University of Natal.

Relocating to Zimbabwe in 1991 to work for Agrifoods Animal feeds, he was promoted to Managing Director of the Veterinary Supply business in 1999, then to Chief Executive Officer of the Agricultural Division of Consolidated Farming Investments in 2003.

Greig, his wife and family moved to Australia in early 2005.

Watching Greig from a distance for a while, before working alongside him to assist with the official opening of D'Orsogna's marvellous \$66 million Mickelham facility at Merrifield Business Park, north of Melbourne, I was impressed by how selfless and humble he is and how this impacts so positively on the 700 or so people who work for him and how he interacts seamlessly with the Board and D'Orsogna family he works for.

Successfully and profitably managing any family

Cant Comment by BRENDON CANT



business, especially one involved in such a cut-throat industry as food manufacturing, where margins can be small and big supermarkets have a lot of say, requires someone with the capacity to understand the politics but not play them.

Greig Smith seems to be that person.

And he's something of a breath of fresh air in an industry sector in sometimes populated at the top level by those hellbent on promoting themselves over their product.

When that happens judgement can fly out the door with profits.

Management needs to be measured, just like success.

Greig's concluding remarks at the official opening, after City of Hume Mayor Carly Moore had said her bit, open a window into how he thinks and the way he'll operate within the big smallgoods world.

"I acknowledge and appreciate the City of Hume's contribution to the development of Merrifield Business Park and how much you have helped and welcomed your newest resident, D'Orsogna.

"Be assured that D'Orsogna will be a fine upstanding citizen.

"As you've heard earlier from our Chairman Tony Iannello and fellow board member Marco D'Orsogna, the company is a well-respected 70-year-old family business that has always been a responsible corporate citizen.

"D'Orsogna gives to the community in which it

Thomason, who most of you will know was a major driver of this project.

"Brad sends his best wishes from Europe where he's now enjoying a well-deserved holiday.

"You all know who you are, so on behalf of D'Orsogna's, Board, our Executive team, our employees and our valued suppliers and customers, thank you so much for sharing our vision.

"That vision is now a reality, so it's now down to business."

Having succeeded a pragmatist, Greig will now confidently go about making his own mark on Melbourne and beyond, while future proofing one of the Australian food industry's truly great family businesses.

Enough said.

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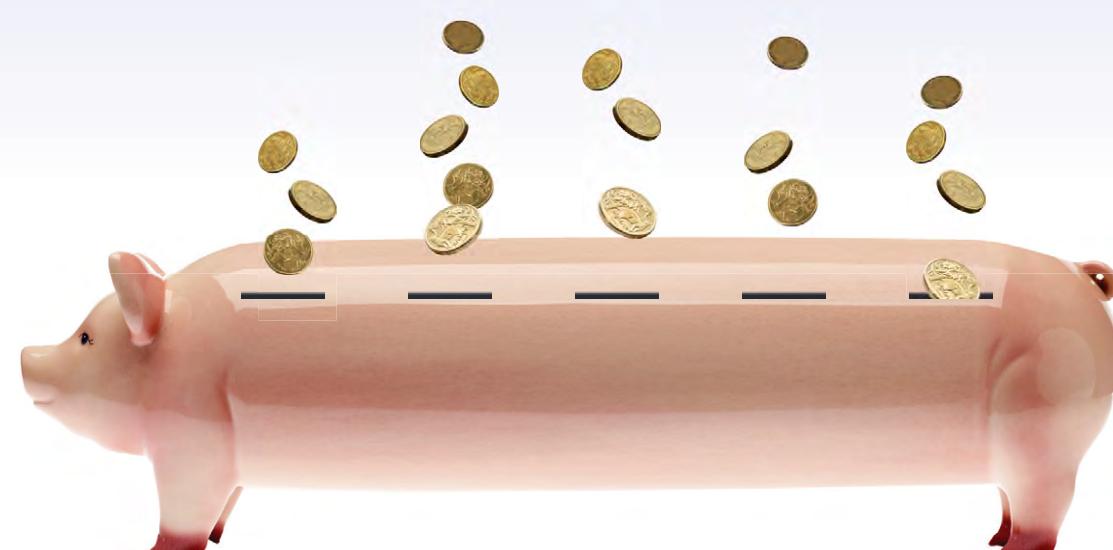
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D'Orsogna Managing Director, Greig Smith.

PIGGERY WASH-DOWN

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AUSTRALIAN PORK LIMITED ADVANCE NOTICE OF 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Australian Pork Limited (ABN 83 092 783 278) (APL) will be held on **Thursday 14 November 2019** commencing at **12.30pm** (Australian Eastern Daylight Savings Time) at the Melbourne Marriott Hotel, Corner Exhibition and Lonsdale Streets, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000.

The business of the Annual General Meeting will include:

- receiving and considering the financial statements of the company, together with the reports of the Directors and Auditor in respect of year ended 30 June 2019
- appointing the company Auditor for 2019–2020 and setting their remuneration
- electing two producer Directors
- considering resolutions proposed to the company by Members and Delegates prior to the annual return date (see below).

The APL Annual Report will be made available on the APL website and relevant meeting papers will be circulated to Members, Associate Members, Delegates, Directors and the Auditor no less than 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

Annual Return Date extended

The Annual Return Date has been extended two weeks, meaning that Members now have until Monday 16 September 2019 to submit their membership renewals, Delegate votes and proposed resolutions.

Membership and Delegate Elections

APL has an obligation to confirm its Members' details and eligibility to continue to be a member every three years.

As such, Members will need to complete and return the APL Producer Member Application Form or complete the form via PigPass by 16 September 2019 to be eligible to vote in the Delegate Elections.

To vote in the Delegate Elections, eligible Members must complete a Delegate Nomination Form.

APL Producer Membership Application and Delegate Nomination Forms are available from australianpork.com.au/members

As per the APL Constitution, if a current Member does not provide APL with the information required by the return date, they are not eligible to continue to be a Member and their membership will lapse.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact APL's Corporate Services Executive, Nikki Watson, on 02 6270 8814 or nikki.watson@australianpork.com.au

APL's 2020-25 Strategic Plan



APL's current Strategic Plan expires in mid-2020 and we have now embarked on the process to develop our next Strategic Plan.

This process is also important as it will inform our R&D investment over the life of the plan – with our 2019 R&D review recommending a change towards more strategically focussed projects that would deliver stepwise impact to the Australian pork industry.

When we drafted the current strategic plan, we asked you about your risk appetite.

Producers clearly indicated a preference for a period of continued stability and there was little appetite for risk.

With the R&D and Marketing reviews undertaken in 2019, APL was of the view that this time, we needed to think differently on how to deliver a Strategic Plan going forward that will position our industry for the disruption particularly at a global scale that is now apparent.

APL has engaged Gary Saliba from Strategic Journeys to help us with this process. Gary has worked with a number of RDCs and other organisations to deliver strategic plans.

To assist us deliver the consultation material, we have established a 'leaders' group' and an 'innovators' group'. These will be working

with Gary and APL executive team to craft three different Australian pork industry futures to generate discussion about how you want your industry to look in 5-10 years.

The discussions will lead to insights that will be the basis for the strategic plan as well as the new R&D investment model. Initial insights from the consultation process will be tabled at the November delegates forum.

The consultation meetings will take place from mid-October to early-December – with two producer and one external stakeholder meeting in each state (with one combined meeting in Tasmania).

There will also be some in-depth and targeted one-on-one consultations. We'll be providing some information on the dates and locations for these meetings in due course, along with some options for you to provide input if

you are unable to make a meeting.

Keep an eye on our Weekly Communiqué for more detail in due course.

At the conclusion of our consultation process, the APL Board will consider the outcomes, and during January 2020, the APL team will start crafting the new Strategic Plan.

The Board will consider the first draft at its February meeting.

APL will then undertake a final consultation process with producers, supply chain, other key stakeholders and governments.

The final APL Board endorsed document is required to be tabled with the Australian Government by the end of April 2020.

This is an exciting time and quite a different process.

If you have any questions about the process, please do not hesitate to contact one of the APL Executive Team.

Genetic resistance can contribute to disease control

THIS month's case study comes from Regina Fogarty, a vet with Rivalea based in Bendigo.

It looks at a successful genetic approach to reducing E coli disease in pigs.

Breeding disease resistant animals to improve health and productivity has long been considered a goal of animal production.

Substantial effort has gone into researching what controls immune competence and allowing animals to increase resistance to particular diseases.

One great example over the last 30 years has been the elimination of what we called the Hal gene – which was associated with malignant hyperthermia, the death of pigs under stressful circumstances including during trucking and meat quality issues with Pale Soft Exudative pork.

Australian pig production and the welfare of our pigs have benefitted greatly from this industry-wide initiative.

Resistance in the case of bacterial diseases would mean no need for medication treatment and no antibiotic required.

While we hear of breakthroughs such as the development of PRRS resistant pigs through gene editing last year, the step from the laboratory trial to disease resistant herds is a complex, time consuming and in many cases impossible achievement.

Enterotoxigenic E coli

disease has long been a major cause of scouring in sucklers and weaned pigs in Australia.

A significant amount of antibiotics has been used to treat and control this disease.

While there have been some very good vaccines developed, outbreaks are generally treated with antibiotics.

Neonatal and postweaning colibacillosis are caused by very different strains of E coli.

The key differences between strains being the toxin types they produce and the finger-like projections on the outer cell wall (fimbria) that allow attachment of the bacteria to the gut cells.

This attachment is the first step in the development of toxin release and disease.

K88 is a common fimbria type in those E coli that cause neonatal scours and is also often found in those causing post-weaning diarrhoea.

It has been known for some years that there are naturally occurring pigs with a genetic resistance to F88 attachment.

They lack the receptor on their gut cells that would have enabled adhesion of the pathogen.

Commencing in 2012, the genetics team at Rivalea Australia began working on breeding pigs resistant to the K88 fimbria.

Now all semen used at Rivalea and sold commercially comes from Rivalea boars fully resistant to the K88 fimbria (carrying two copies of the gene).

istance (requires resistant genes on both chromosomes for the pig to be resistant), carrier (one resistant gene) and susceptible (neither chromosome has a resistant gene).

Secondly, through genetic records, it was demonstrated that the gene was heritable, and hence disease resistance to K88 could be passed on from one generation to the next.

The aim was to ensure the frequency of the favourable K88 gene in the nucleus breeding herd and therefore the commercial herd was increased to acceptable levels.

This project involved ongoing testing all breeding stock (gilts/sows and boars) across all most Rivalea sites for the K88 genotypes.

By doing DNA analysis on hair samples from individual breeding animals and actively selecting breeding stock a reduction in the incidence of the disease has been experienced at Rivalea.

The K88 resistance trait was of course not the only trait being selected for, but the change has been impressive.

Over the past six years a 95 percent reduction in E coli deaths has been recorded.

Now all semen used at Rivalea and sold commercially comes from Rivalea boars fully resistant to the K88 fimbria (carrying two copies of the gene).

Ross Cutler

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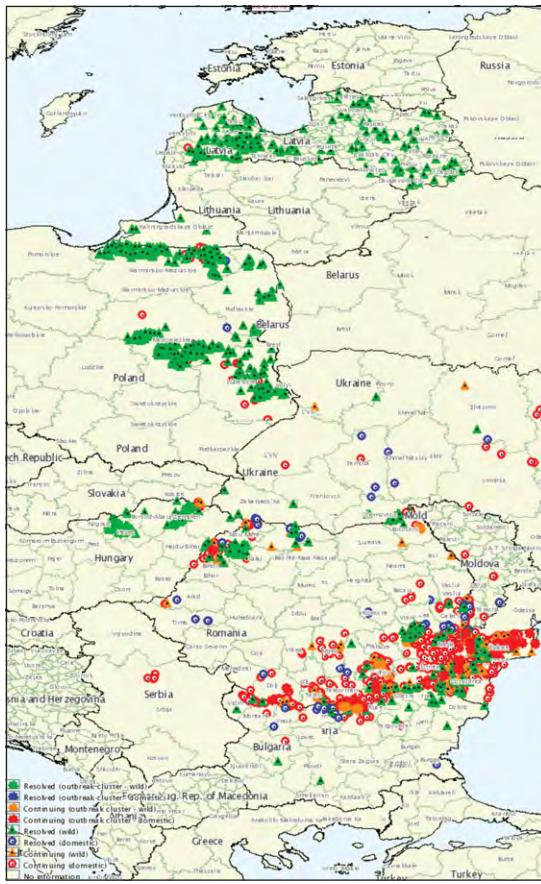
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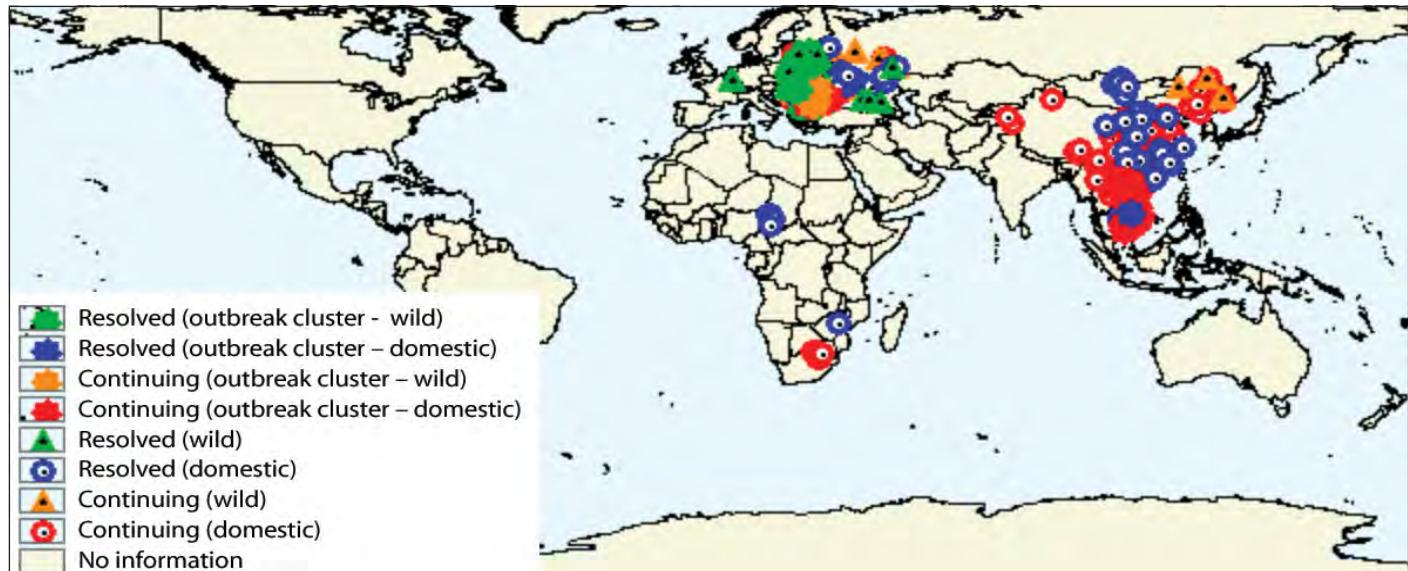
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The ASF cases reported to the OIE between Jan and Aug 2019 Eastern Europe.



Global outbreaks reported to the OIE since January 2019 to August 2019.

African swine fever – a year later from China

FOLLOWING the introduction in 2007 of ASF type II into Georgia, the pathogen moved west into Eastern Europe and north into Russia and then west into Asia.

Unfortunately, as expected the situation is get-

ting progressively much worse.

Vaccine development, for 40 years, has not produced an effective vaccine, although Asian scientists are progressing with interesting possible vaccines.

I am informed that large scale trials of a couple of hopeful candidates are to happen by the end of 2019.

However, current ideas employ live vaccines and persistence is going to be a significant issue in widespread deployment of any vaccine.

The impact of African swine fever on the pig population is now threatening human protein resources.

African swine fever is an arthropod borne viral disease of only the suidae.

It does not affect humans, dogs, cows, horses and other mammals.

Its normal route of infection is direct from pig to pig (African suidae) or indirect via the tick *Carios* (*Ornithodoros*).

The movement from pig to pig needs to be through very close contact – within three metres and if not, through direct physical contact, mainly through the ingestion of pig material (pork, blood, faeces, saliva) or geneti-

cally through semen.

These pig materials are often carried by fomites including vehicles, human clothing and hands, vermin or rarely through contaminated foodstuffs.

Situation in Europe

In Europe the situation continues on a grind with a progressive slow movement across Poland via the movement of wild boar.

Eastern European countries continue to succumb with substantial outbreaks continuing in Romania.

The condition has spread to surrounding countries affecting both wild and commercial pigs.

Belgium is a particular concern to the large western European pig herd.

This is 'only' an infection of wild boar – but the Belgium authorities are struggling to deal with the disease and it has spread from a small initial outbreak to become a major problem with over 800 cases.

One issue is that the OIE reports that the disease in Belgium is resolved, stating that the condition is only being found in dead animals and therefore is resolved.

But this is clearly incorrect.

There is a serious and

ongoing outbreak in Belgium and this needs to be stopped immediately before the commercial farms of central and Western Europe starts becoming infected.

Asia and the impact on human protein resources

The infection spread into Russia a couple of years ago and since then the world has held its breath hoping beyond hope that it would not spread into China and South East Asia.

Unfortunately, in early 2018 the infection did spread into China and has exploded.

The disease is now widespread through the massive Chinese pig herd.

At the beginning of 2018, China had almost half a billion pigs.

The combination of 20 to 80 percent mortality and the need to cull before

pigs get sick, the Chinese herd will be decimated with a loss of 50 percent or even more before we start their recovery.

There are already substantial recovery efforts being made in the larger professional commercial farms.

The adoption of strict biosecurity policies has massively slowed the progression of the virus within their companies.

But the disease is not only affecting China, it has spread to all her neighbours causing total devastation to Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, North Korea and Myanmar.

The Philippines pig industry is very worried and is investigation unexplained causes of mortality.

China consumes 51 bil-

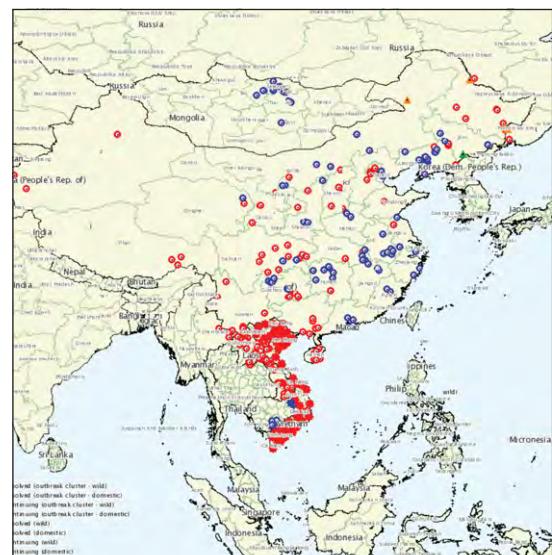
• continued P9



Belgium October 2018.



Belgium August 2019.



The ASF cases reported to the OIE between Jan and Aug 2019 South East Asia.

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African swine fever – a year later from China

• from P8

lion kg per year – they would consume the Australian herd in less than four days.

China alone accounts for 46 percent of the pork eaten on the planet.

Therefore, if in South East Asia we have a shortfall of 300 million pigs this would be a shortfall of 10 percent of protein.

To compensate, we will require the number of chickens to increase by 25 percent or the number of cows to increase by nearly 40 percent!

This disease causes the loss of all pigs – meaning recovery is not going to be easy.

Has the virus changed in the last 12 years since it first entered Georgia?

Being a DNA virus, ASF has undergone no significant changes to the virus, which entered Georgia in 2007.

The ASF isolates throughout South East Asia or Eastern Europe are still basically the same type II.

The virus does produce a variety of clinical signs and mortality rate, which

has nothing to do with virulence factors.

The clinical signs in South Asia kills 30-70 percent of the affected pigs.

The major clinical signs are a high temperature 42C with red ears and blotchy red skin.

Haemorrhages may be seen in the skin.

At post-mortem, which may not be advised as it releases vast amounts of virus, which then need to be cleaned up, the major pathological findings are an enlarged spleen, haemorrhages and haemorrhagic lymph nodes.

Any suspicion of swine fever must be notified.

African Swine Fever in legal or illegal imported meat

The island nations around infected South East Asian are registering ASF virus in meat impounded at their borders.

With a rate of infected meat in Asia of about 30 percent in illegal imported meat.

This has been found not only in other Asian countries but also at home, here in Australia.

While this is obviously

a risk there is still a big disconnect between ASF in meat and the presence of this meat on a pig and then being fed to a pig.

We praise our border patrol guys, not only for great television, but active security protection of our industry.

Thanks guys!

South East Asian pigs

One potential significant side-effect of African swine fever is the presence of several island pigs who are different species to Sus scrofa.

These can be divided roughly into three groups; Bearded pigs, Wattle pigs and the smallest pig from Assam, Sus salvanius.

While Sus salvanius is endangered the other species are holding their own.

But the impact of ASF could plummet their population into a critical en-

dangered position.

Australian pig herd

We must keep ASF out of Australia.

The combination of wild boars, feral pigs and outdoor pigs will make any biosecurity programme very difficult.

How can Australia assist South East Asia?

The Australian herd isn't big enough to substantially supply pork to fill in the chasm of depleted pork.

Any export sales to support the pork price would obviously be helpful to sustain the industry.

But the Australia excellent health status could be capitalised upon to produce gilts and breeding stock to restock the devastated herds of South East Asia.

Summary

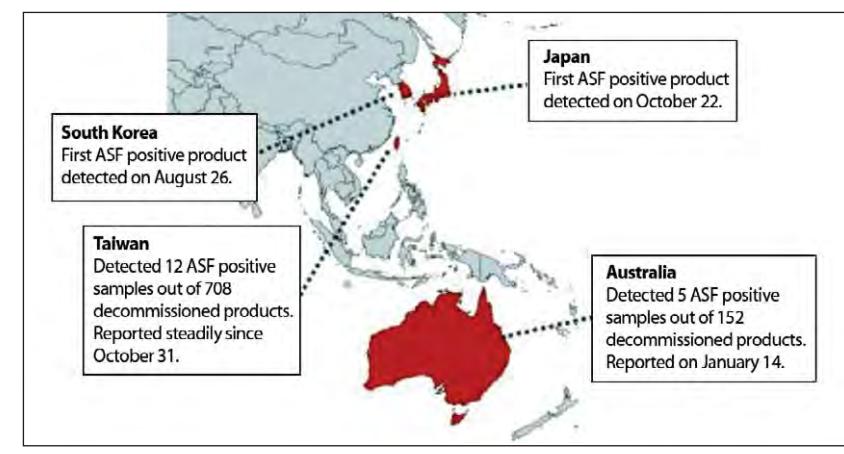
African swine fever type II continues its march

across the Northern Hemisphere scything a swath through the Sus scrofa population, while it is not a human pathogen its effects on the human society and our global food supply is only just starting to be felt.

Dr John Carr, James Cook University



Australia can help South East Asia through pork exports but also more importantly through breeding stock.

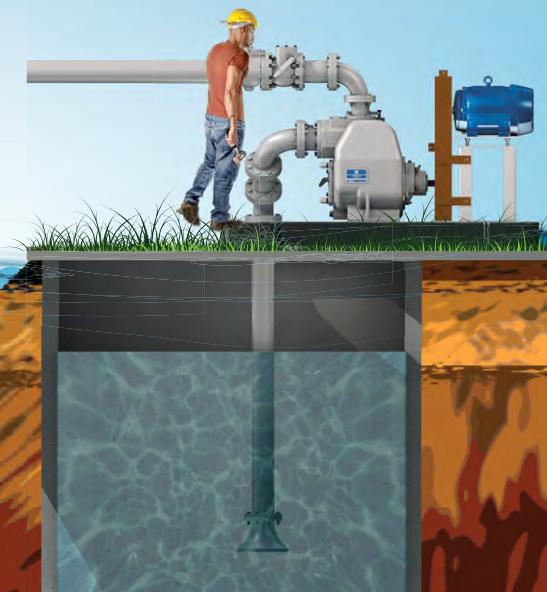


ASF detections in illegally imported meat (to Jan 2019).

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**HYDRO
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AUSTRALIAN PORK LIMITED ELECTED DIRECTOR VACANCY

As required by Australian Pork Limited's (APL) constitution, two elected directors of Australian Pork Limited will resign at the AGM being held on 14 November 2019.

Two Elected Director positions will become vacant on Thursday 14 November 2019.

Delegates will vote to elect two Elected Director candidates to the vacant positions at the AGM.

Nominations are being called for the APL elected director vacancies. A producer member of APL or a current APL Director can nominate a person(s) to stand for election as an Elected Director.

The Funding Agreement between APL and the Commonwealth Government (Department of Agriculture) and the APL Constitution both require a 'skills-based Board'.

To ensure a skills-based Board is maintained, nominated candidates who are not existing Directors of the Board are required to provide a curriculum vitae together with a statement specifically addressing their potential contribution to the following collective Board core skill and experience competencies:

- a. Governance
- b. Financial management
- c. Government relations/public policy/administration
- d. Production
- e. Processing
- f. Food industry
- g. Promotion and marketing
- h. Market development and international marketing
- i. R&D/R&D administration
- j. R&D commercialisation and technology transfer
- k. Conservation and natural resource management
- l. Business and management acumen.

The APL People & Culture Board Committee will review all nominations received to determine the impact of each candidate's skills on the maintenance of a skills-based Board.

Nominated candidates must provide a consent to the nomination.

Nominations for these positions close at 5.00pm on Thursday 10 October 2019.

For further information, to nominate a candidate(s) or to obtain a consent to nomination form, please contact:

Mr Damien Howse
Company Secretary,
Australian Pork Limited
PO Box 4746,
Kingston ACT 2604
Phone: 02 6270 8805
damien.howse@australianpork.com.au

Pig in figure 5 presented with large haemorrhagic lymph nodes, enlarged spleen, red ears and blood splashing.



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A great performance from the Cairns Chinese Association at the SunPork conference welcome BBQ.

Great turn out at 2019 Australian Pig Veterinarians Conference

CAIRNS proved to be an excellent venue for the meeting of the Australian Pig Veterinarians.

One hundred delegates comprising veterinarians

in practice, industry and government, around 30 speakers and many other industry representatives met from July 31 to August 2.

Veterinarians ranged from those retired but still with a very active interest in the industry – Dr John Holder from Sydney to Dr Andres Ardila who has just joined the pig team at Boehringer-Ingelheim.

The speaker travelling the least distance was producer Robyn Boundy from Mareeba.

Dr Mandy Nevel from the UK would have travelled the greatest distance to attend.

The Annual General Meeting of the APV saw some changes, with Dr Merideth Parke from EW Nutrition handing over the president's role to Dr Susan Dawson of Portec/APiam.

The other new member of the APV committee is Dr Yvette Pollock from Sunpork who joins Regina Fogarty, Anke Woeckel, Jon Bartsch and Merideth Parke who are staying on from the old committee.

The committee are grateful for the sponsorship received from platinum sponsor APL, gold sponsors MSD, Zoetis and Boehringer-Ingelheim, silver sponsors Jefo, Kemin and Feedworks and bronze sponsors Biomin, ADM and Treidlia.

While the conference dinner at Dundee's restaurant on the waterfront was an excellent social night and was well attended, the social highlight was definitely the poolside function on the opening night.

The welcome drinks and BBQ were sponsored by Sunpork.

Just prior to dinner, and sponsored by International Animal Health, the Cairns Chinese Association put on an informative and cultural feast of Lion Dancing and celebrations for the Year of the Pig.

The big and little lions and the very pregnant pig danced their way through the crowd to traditional drums and cymbals.

The lion a symbol of power, wisdom, and good fortune, chases away evil spirits and brings happiness, longevity, and good luck.

The Chinese Associa-

tion even left two of their blow pigs with us over the conference to bring good luck in this auspicious year.

Next year the conference looks to be heading to Melbourne.

Scientific Program Highlights

With a major theme of antimicrobial stewardship, the program looked closely at AMS, antimicrobial resistance and alternative strategies to antimicrobials.

For the second year in a row, Dr Mark Schipp, Australia's chief veterinary officer attended the conference providing an update on AMS issues nationally and internationally.

Mareeba producer, Robyn Boundy spoke on the industry's need to continue a proactive approach to the challenges it faces, including on AMS and AMR.

Conference keynote speaker Dr Amanda Nevel gave a detailed assessment of the need for national pig industries to adopt measurement of antimicrobial use to allow informed discussion on the use of antimicrobials to support the health and welfare of production pigs.

Working in the UK slaughter levy funded Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board, **continued P11**



Delegates enjoyed the dinner and show at the SunPork welcome BBQ.



Anke Woeckel (right) presented at the conference and is also a member of the APV committee.



Mark Schipp (left) and Robyn Boundy (right) gave excellent presentations.

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Great turn out at 2019 APV Conference

• from P10

Mandy detailed how the UK recording program was established and what has driven over 90 percent uptake by producers.

Over 60 percent of the production sector had already committed to the electronic Medicines Book approach before the



Dr Damien Paris (right) and his son enjoyed the festivities after Damien's presentation.



Drinks before the conference dinner at Dundee's Restaurant.

New feeders cut feed waste at Deni Piggery

A year ago David and Tristan Donaldson of Deni Piggery visited Europe in search for a feeder promoting piglet growth and reduced wastage.

They found that the SKIOLD MaxiMat feeders were common on Danish farms, leading to their initial investment into the feeders.

Today, the Donaldsons are completing their second installation of SKIOLD MaxiMat Feeders at their commercial pig farm in southern NSW.

The primary motivation for the re-investment in the feeders?

Increased efficiency in feeding, better animal health among weaners and a higher profitability.

Tristan Donaldson said, "I was very impressed with the operational functionality of the feeders when we saw them on farms and immediately assumed

that it would be a good investment for us. When fed through the SKIOLD feeder, weaners were eating naturally and their mash wasn't getting thinned by mixing with the water trough.

"In the past we had extensively used feeders that mixed the meal and water into a paste believing this was best for the weaners. The constant repairs and adjustments required to those feeders and their intermittent reliability was detrimental to our weaners and feed wastage was apparent."

Tristan goes on to explain some of the benefits they have received from the SKIOLD MaxiMat Feeders.

The fact that dosing can be set very accurately allows them to optimize the feed usage and control the flow of mash efficiently.

"After purchasing and trialing our first order of the MaxiMat feeders

we were impressed with the weaners health and growth and the minimal to no feed wastage. Upon our second purchase we discarded all the existing feeders. These MaxiMat feeders continue to impress us with; how easy the piglets can turn and dispense the meal, availability of water, consistent growth weight and the minimal feed wastage while showing low maintenance. The money spent on these feeders are well-spent," he said to conclude the interview.

Additional features:

- Prevention of feed cluttering and bridging due to specially designed slip angles;
- Hygienic and easy to clean feeders without the use of any tools through an integrated cleaning feature; and
- Easy to adjust handle for exact dosage delivery with dispensing unit that both rotates and springs.

The SKIOLD feeders are available in four versions; one for porkers of a weight of 15-130 kg, one for weaners weighing between 7-60 kg, one for weaners to growers of 7-130 kg and a fourth model for weaners with a separate drinker on the side.

All four versions are recommended to be used with a SKIOLD MaxiMat Aqua water supply, designed to promote water consumption.



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industry, Dr Damien Paris from James Cook University spoke on his recent work that heat stress-induced, DNA damaged sperm from boars may contribute significantly to early embryo loss in sows. This damage was not seen though changes in sperm motility.

He did find that an anti-oxidant therapy during summer appeared to significantly alleviate heat stress-induced DNA damage but not concentration nor motility in boar sperm.

Dr Deb Finlaison from the NSW government's Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute reported the first finding of an atypical porcine pestivirus as the cause of congenital tremors in pigs.

While work back in the 1980s had demonstrated there was an infectious agent associated with this debilitating disease of Australian neonatal pigs, the exact cause had not been proven.

Following work in the USA and Europe identifying the viral agent, the EMAI research has now detected this virus in Australian pigs.

With African Swine Fe-

ver very much front of mind in the industry the program included four highly relevant talks.

Dr Belinda Wright from Animal Health Australia spoke on the policy approaches to responding to an exotic disease incursion.

From a state government perspective, Dr Alison Crook, QLD Chief Veterinary Officer covered off on the state response strategies and her plans to conduct with industry a simulation exercise in QLD.

Dr Jeremy Rogers from South Australia spoke on the findings from the recent "Exercize Rapid Strike" workshop that simulated aspects of an ASF incursion in SA.

He also described current work on pre-assessment of emergency movement permits for pigs travelling on regular routes in the event of an outbreak and a proposed piece of work at SABOR on testing of boars for exotic diseases.

Dr John Carr gave an excellent update on where the disease is at globally, what we should be doing to prevent its spread and the challenges this disease presents.



Ross Cutler (right) proved to be an excellent chairperson at the event.

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D'Orsogna brings home bacon for jobs

FA M I L Y - owned smallgoods success story D'Orsogna is getting bigger, creating more than 100 new jobs in Melbourne's north thanks to support from the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade Martin Pakula has officially opened D'Orsogna's new \$64 million processing and packaging plant at Merrifield.

The company has grown from humble beginnings – a family butcher shop in West Perth in 1949 – to now supplying Woolworths, Coles, Subway, Hungry Jacks and other businesses across Australia.

Demand had outgrown capacity at the company's factory in Mount Waverley, and now with

assistance from the Labor Government the purpose-built manufacturing facility at Merrifield provides for the company's east coast cooking, smoking, cooling, storing, slicing and packaging needs.

More than 160 workers are now based at Merrifield, up from 55 before the company's Government-supported expansion.

Located at the heart of Merrifield Business Park in Mickleham, D'Orsogna's state-of-the-art facility makes use of the latest developments in processing and packaging technology, which will help advance the company's growth in both domestic and export markets.

The company supplies products under the "D'Orsogna" and "Riverland" brands.

Victoria is Australia's largest exporter of food and fibre products, with sales of more than \$14 billion annually.

The sector contributes almost six percent of Victoria's Gross State Product and employs almost 240,000 people.

Martin Pakula, minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade, said, "Our food and fibre sector makes up nearly 50 percent of the state's exports and is worth more than \$14 billion – this is another vote of confidence in the country's premium food capital.

"We're proud to have backed this expansion by D'Orsogna that has brought jobs to Melbourne's north and opened up even more

opportunities for export and growth across this vital sector."

Yuroke Ros Spence said, "This is a fantastic result and it's terrific that we have been able to play a part in bringing 100 new jobs to the heart of Melbourne's north. It's great news for D'Orsogna and even better news for the local economy."

Greig Smith, D'Orsogna managing director, said, "D'Orsogna is pleased to complete the establishment of its new Victorian facility in Melbourne's north and we welcome our incredibly diverse and skilled workforce. It's been a pleasure to work collaboratively with both state and local governments to expand our presence here."

APRIL Announces Call for Applications for Transformational and Industry Priority Projects

THE Australasian Pork Research Institute Ltd is seeking applications for its transformational projects and its industry priority projects are key pillars of APRIL's Strategic Plan (2019-2022).

An independent, member-based research entity, APRIL seeks to enhance the Australasian Pork Industry by investing in research and development, education and training and commercialisation activities focused on priorities and deliverables that ensure the sustainability of Australasian pork production and to generate optimal returns for its stakeholders.

The call for transformational and industry priority project applications comes after research investments approaching \$2 million by APRIL in 2018 and again earlier this year, with successful Innovation Projects.

Professor John Pluske, APRIL Chief Scientist and CEO, said that April's transformational projects and its industry priority projects are key pillars of APRIL's Strategic Plan (2019-2022).

Two transformational projects address key industry issues of enhanced antimicrobial stewardship in the Australasian pork industry through targeted reduction of in-feed medications without adverse health consequences, and elimination of the need for tail docking in Australasian pork production systems.

APRIL is seeking a program of research and inquiry, likely to be multidisciplinary in nature, that will significantly address and impact positively these two issues.

APRIL's industry priority projects address a number of key areas that will also shape the future industry landscape.

Priority areas include issues such as novel approaches to allow increased use of food wastes in pig diets, making pigs more tolerant to heat, detecting sow reproductive state more efficiently and effectively, and biodegradable packaging solutions for pork products.

Industry priority projects will follow a standard application format.

Professor Pluske said, "As with previous APRIL funding rounds, a minimum level of co-investment of 25 percent cash, of the total project cost, is required for APRIL-funded projects. However, the priorities, and the transformational projects especially, lend themselves to potentially significantly

higher levels of external investment, and researchers interested in applying should seek these avenues wherever possible.

"Furthermore, a key priority for APRIL is education and training, hence researchers are encouraged to explore the opportunity of including tertiary training in their proposals, if appropriate.

"Applications can be lodged by researchers currently working in the pork industry, but are also welcomed from individuals and organisations not necessarily with a direct affiliation with the Australasian pork industry. This may include overseas organisations and companies.

Potential applicants should be acquainted with APRIL's membership base and the prospective advantages interactions with members may bring to a proposal."

Applications for both transformational and industry priority projects are planned to open on September 16.

It is anticipated that funding for successful projects would occur after April, 2020.

Please visit the website, www.april.org.au, for further information, including timeframes, guidelines and application details.

For further information, contact either APRIL Chief Scientist/CEO Professor Pluske on 0410 436 871 and j.pluske@april.org.au, or Dr Charles Rikard-Bell, manager, commercialisation and research impact on 0439 513 723 and c.rikardbell@april.org.au.

Outcomes of the Enterics Advisory Group Meeting

AN advisory group of Australian experienced pig veterinarians and researchers recently met to discuss up-to-date and effective approaches to managing pig gut health for the Australian pork industry.

Sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Australia, the group aims to utilise its field and laboratory expertise to provide a locally based, globally competent and recognised panel on the prevention and control of pig enteric diseases.

The challenge
The group agreed that porcine proliferative enteropathy (ileitis) is a major enteric disease of concern for their pig producers and recognised that there is no current surveillance system in place to determine the prevalence and/or impact of these diseases in Australia.

Ileitis is caused by Gram-negative *Lawsonia intracellularis* that infects enterocytes of pigs, primarily in the ileum.

Ileitis is endemic in pig herds worldwide

and is associated with significant economic losses due to decreased performance of the pigs and increased mortality.

The Australian Antimicrobial Prescribing Guidelines for Pigs highlight the importance of reducing antimicrobial resistance and promoting the responsible and prudent antimicrobial use in pig production.

As a result, the group identified the need to compare the efficacy of antibiotic alternatives for the management of pig enteric diseases.

Next steps
The group plans to meet again later in the year to further progress their goal of developing strategies relevant for Australian vets and producers that focus on approaches to managing pig gut health.

For more information on gut health, please contact your veterinarian or Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health Territory Manager.

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Cross-sectoral collaboration driving innovative solutions

OVER the past couple of years, APL has invested in a number of cross-sectoral projects as part of the Commonwealth Government's Rural R&D for Profit program.

Some interesting outcomes are now emerging from these projects; the three production-related projects are briefly described below.

Alternative feed sources from sugarcane waste

Sugarcane is one of Australia's largest crops, with up to 35 million tonnes of sugarcane grown annually.

Sugarcane harvesting and processing generates a range of by-products including 10 million tonnes of bagasse and trash.

Bagasse is the fibrous residue left over when the sugarcane is processed at the mill and trash is the tops and leaves of the sugarcane plant that remain in the field when the stalk is harvested.

Biomass residues from agricultural crops, such as sugarcane, have significant potential to be used for animal feeds and are generally cheaper than other feed ingredients.

However, bagasse and trash are poorly digested by ruminants and monogastric animals, including pigs.

Given the potential benefits that alternative and cost-effective feed sources could bring to the Australian pig industry, APL is participating in the "Biorefineries for Profit" project being led by Sugar Research Australia and managed by the Queensland University of Technology.

Other RDC's involved in the project include Forest and Wood Products Australia and the Cotton Research and Development Corporation.

Research has been conducted to benefit the pork industry, particularly through improving the digestibility and nutritional value of sugar cane crop residues to make it a viable alternative feed source for pigs.

So far, novel pre-treatment technologies to enhance the nutritional value of sugarcane bagasse have been successfully developed.

Prebiotic xylooligosaccharides produced from the xylan fraction in plant fibre have also been developed from bagasse – these are potential dietary supplements.

Recently, a one-year extension to the project has been granted as part of round four of the Department of Agriculture's RR&D4P program.

This work will validate the safety and efficacy of sugarcane bagasse as a suitable and cost-effective animal feed alternative.

Projects will be undertaken at a number of commercial livestock facilities including pig production systems.

We'll provide latest updates about this as they come to hand.

Forewarned is Fore-armed

Extreme climate events significantly impact on the productivity and profitability of Australian farming systems.

Extreme weather events can affect pig production, in particular heat wave events can significantly impact animal health and production.

Weather forecasts and warnings are routinely used to advise the community of extreme weather events, such as heat-waves.

This translates into fire bans being instigated, timing of harvest changes, proactive irrigation and shading for crops, moving livestock to shaded areas and ensuring water availability.

However, there are significant gaps in being able to provide warnings of extreme weather events 7–28 days ahead and for upcoming seasons.

This project, which is being led by Meat and Livestock Australia, also involves the grains, cotton, meat, dairy, sugar, wine, horticultural and pork industries.

It aims to improve the forecasting of climate extremes such as heat-waves, frost, floods and drought and to link the forecasts with management options.

This will equip farmers with the information and tools to be forewarned and proactively prepare producers to manage extreme weather events and minimise the impact on agricultural systems.

It is being run in conjunction with the Bureau of Meteorology and is scheduled to be completed by 2022.

For Australian pork producers, this could mean that systems can be put in place to help with forecasting of heat wave events weeks in advance.

This would give managers time to organise labour, facilities and resources to optimise animal care and minimise effects on production.

Indirectly, Australian pork production systems will benefit through the adoption of these early warning systems by grain farmers to help ensure improved grain yield and availability.

Virtual herding

About 10 years ago, CSIRO began examining the potential of virtual herding for the beef cattle industry.

Using a GPS system to define fence boundaries and a specially designed collar that alerts the animal to the fact that it has reached the 'fence', a prototype of the system was successfully demonstrated with beef cattle.

To make virtual herding a viable livestock management option in Australian livestock farming systems, Dairy Australia

along with Meat and Livestock Australia, Australian Wool Innovation and Australian Pork Limited have partnered with a number of Universities, CSIRO and Agersens.

This work is aiming to deliver significant productivity and profitability improvements, 10–20 percent, for livestock enterprises through the evaluation, demonstration and adoption of this technology.

Overall, this project will ensure more efficient use of pasture, protect environmentally sensitive areas, improve the performance of livestock by better matching their nutritional requirements to feed availability

ity and reduce labour to enable significant productivity and profitability gains for Australian farmers.

Whilst there are currently no virtual herding systems available for pigs, we are continuing to assess developments in the technology development for potential application in the pig industry, particularly in free range systems in some states.

For further information or to discuss, please contact Rebecca Athorn on 02 6270 8827 or rebecca.athorn@australianpork.com.au.

Heather Channon, APL Research and Innovation, General Manager

Pandemic + illegal imports = clear and present danger

AFRICAN swine fever is one of the most significant threats to Australian agriculture and the national economy in recent memory.

Agriculture Minister Bridget McKenzie said despite the global pandemic, the public hadn't got the message that meeting biosecurity requirements was non-negotiable.

"Between last November and May, 23 tonnes of pork has been seized at Australian borders," Minister McKenzie said.

"That's the equivalent of four pigs arriving in the country every week."

"Australia works overtime to keep those threats at bay—intercepting over 1000 items of pork a week at airports and mail centres—but those odds are not in our favour."

er or a farmer, information is tailored to your interests.

"A change in our bio-security status could damage our reputation as a clean and green producer threatening our market access—and many Australians probably aren't aware of this."

"That's why Australia's agriculture ministers agreed to promote biosecurity messages through a new national biosecurity website to improve the community's access to information."

"The website is a portal directing users to relevant biosecurity information on trusted sites."

"If you're an on-line shopper, an international traveller, a keen garden-

er or a farmer, information is tailored to your interests."

"The site is in an early release stage so people can explore the content that relates to them and leave feedback. I encourage all Australians to jump on and have a look."

"The Australian Government is serious about making sure the community has access to the information it needs to play its part in managing biosecurity threats."

"Not knowing the rules is no excuse for doing the wrong thing—I want people to feel knowledgeable enough to do the right thing."

The website is available here: beta.biosecurity.gov.au

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Change management reduces antibiotic use in the farrowing house

FARROWING house mortality rate, diarrhoea and antimicrobial usage were reduced by a program that involved all-in-all-out pig flow, batch disinfection with biofilm control, reduced protein starter diets, appropriate stocking density and the use of an anti-clostridial probiotic both in-feed and sprayed onto sows' udders in a milk Clostat 'cultured' preparation.

Udder spraying was done daily throughout lactation.

Prostaglandin farrowing induction was stopped.

Cross fostering was minimized.

Strict attention was

paid to critical temperatures.

The program was implemented by consultant vet Peter McKenzie and Rick Carter from Kemin Industries.

Peter was faced with cases of Clostridial diarrhoea on farms where Ceftiofur had been used.

Ceftiofur is one of the newer antibiotics, considered of critical importance to human use.

It's not approved for use in pigs because of the risk of resistances building up in pig pathogens and then that resistance being transferred to human pathogens.

Sometimes veterinarians prescribe ceftiofur off label without work-

ing out what has really gone wrong on a farm to precipitate disease.

The problem is that in baby pigs this drug can wipe out the good bugs that help form the normal bug ecosystem that, in turn, keeps the lid on the nasties.

Peter and Rick thought that they could help populate the baby pig gut with 'good' bugs, in this case *Bacillus subtilis* PB6 (Clostat, Kemin).

They thought it might help overcome the clostridial bacteria on the four Queensland farms that formed the basis of a study presented at the first Australian Veterinary An-

timicrobial Stewardship conference late last year and recently published in the *Australian Veterinary Journal*.

The health and production changes were positive across all four farms.

They were associated with cost and labour savings.

Injectable ceftiofur use and in-feed antibiotic inclusions were dramatically reduced.

Pig health and production improved.

The authors observed that stopping pig deaths from clostridia provided the catalyst for increasing implementation of the wider program, because of a lift in piggery staff morale.

They were helped by better diagnostic tests that allowed for increased recognition of clostridial disease in young pigs.

It's anybody's guess as to whether it was the lift in management standards, or the Clostat, or the combination that did the trick.

The fact remains that they got a good result.

Peter McKenzie said, "Provided there is a good relationship between a committed, competent veterinarian, and a committed, competent manager, change management programs can be successfully implemented on farms over 6-12 months."

Department of Agriculture's assessment of imported pig meat vulnerability identifies key shortfalls

COMMENCING October 2018, the Department of Agriculture has examined the potential vulnerabilities associated with pig meat imports to ensure current controls meet industry and community expectations.

In the wake of our imported pig meat vulnerability assessment, we identified a number of areas needing attention to ensure pig meat imports meet Australia's strict biosecurity laws.

Under current policy, specific import conditions apply for the following commodities and countries:

- Uncooked pig meat – Belgium (following an outbreak of African swine fever in Belgium, pig meat and goods containing, or potentially contaminated with pig material sourced from Belgium, no longer meet current Australian import requirements and the department has stopped imports of Belgian origin pig meat), Canada, Denmark, Finland, Great Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales), Republic of Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Sweden and the United States of America.

- Cooked (un-retorted) – Canada, Denmark, Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales), New Zealand, Sweden and the United States of America.

- Cured ham – Italy and Spain.

Competent overseas authorities—all members of the World Organisation for Animal Health—certify the biosecurity health of imported pig meat.

We audit these authorities regularly and impose penalties for non-compliance or failure to report disease outbreaks to the OIE.

The imported pig meat vulnerability assessment highlighted some areas for improvement in the auditing of these authorities, which we have now addressed.

We monitor the compliance of importers through documentation, container inspections and scrutiny of any sudden or unusual changes of behaviour.

We found pig meat importers are largely compliant, noting that non-compliant importers face administrative sanctions or civil or criminal prosecution actions for severe breaches.

We have investigated a number of pig meat importers since the introduction of the Biosecurity Act 2015.

Once in Australia, the movement of pig meat between borders and processors is subject to administrative action and regulation—again, we found the industry to be largely compliant.

For non-compliant operators, we are able to impose severe administrative and civil penalties.

Processing of pig meat produces biosecurity waste that requires specific treatment and handling. The assessment found training standardisation of biosecurity waste operators would improve the processing. We are currently addressing this shortfall.

We continue to maintain an active watching brief on diseases of biosecurity concern, partly by monitoring the status of overseas competent authorities and international producers and suppliers.

In Australia, we actively monitor and audit the importers, brokers and Approved Arrangements involved in the facilitation of the imported pig meat trade.

For further information about the laws surrounding the importation of pig meat into Australia, please contact the Compliance, Analysis and Testing Team at CAT@agriculture.gov.au

To confidentially report a suspected breach of Australian biosecurity, meat or food inspection laws, contact Redline on 1800 803 006.



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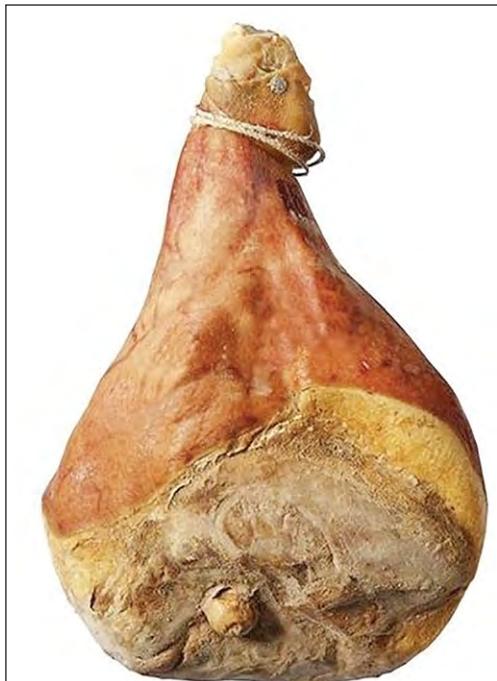
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D'Orsogna Warmly Welcomed in Victoria

ICONIC Western Australian company, D'Orsogna Limited, has commenced production at its \$66 million state-of-the-art 11,000 square metre food manufacturing facility in Victoria.

Officially opened last week at Merrifield Business Park, 30km north of Melbourne, by Victorian Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade, Martin Pakula, it will soon employ 200 people and firmly

establish D'Orsogna as a national market leader in the smallgoods and meat protein food sector.

The 70-year-old business with a new production base in Victoria and headquarters in Palmyra, Western Australia, where it employs a further 550 people, is one of the most recognisable brands at Woolworths, Coles, Metcash and food service businesses.

Managing Director,



D'Orsogna Managing Director Greig Smith shows the way during the Ministerial tour at D'Orsogna Melbourne Opening August 16, 2019.



D'Orsogna Victoria Acting Operations Manager Ryan Barrett (left) and factory staff at the August 16 official opening of D'Orsogna's new \$66 million food manufacturing facility at Merrifield Business Park, north of Melbourne.

Greig Smith, speaking at the opening alongside Chairman Tony Iannello and Directors Marco D'Orsogna and Massimo Valentini, said the D'Orsogna name, brand and products were now firmly established on the east coast.

"We've taken a measured approach to such a substantial investment after establishing a modest footprint in Victoria 10 years ago at Mt Waverley. The new Merrifield production facility will secure the future of the D'Orsogna business," Mr Smith said.

"Breaking new ground in business, even as a market leader, comes at considerable cost and we pay tribute and thank the Victorian Government and City of Hume for their financial and other support.

"We commit today to repaying that investment by the state and local community with this first-

class food manufacturing business that already employs local citizens and delivers environmentally, socially and financially," he said.

Minister Pakula said the Victorian Government proudly backed the expansion by D'Orsogna that brought jobs to Melbourne's north and opened opportunities for export and growth in a vital food and fibre sector that made up almost half of the state's exports and was valued at \$14 billion.

The D'Orsogna family first had a presence in Melbourne in 1947 when D'Orsogna brothers Giovanni and Tommaso worked there in the food and hospitality industry for two years before returning to Perth to open a small family butcher shop in West Perth in 1949.

Headquartered in Perth, WA market leader D'Orsogna produces a range of cured and cooked whole and sliced hams, gourmet continental goods, bacon and cooked sausages.

The landmark WA premises at Palmyra, near the port of Fremantle, has been D'Orsogna's home since 1973 and will retain its head office status, staff and production.

D'Orsogna Chairman, Tony Iannello, told the 50 guests at the opening and plaque unveiling that the new Victorian facility would double D'Orsogna's production capacity and generate development op-

portunities for its extensive range of innovative ham, bacon and other meat protein products.

"Proximity to major markets, streamlined manufacturing processes and state-of-the art equipment, all supported by well trained staff, a committed management and board and supportive customers should ensure its success," Mr Iannello said.

"Productivity per square metre of floor space will be leading edge, allowing us to be competitive and satisfy growing consumer demand for fresh, conveniently packaged, modern meat protein products.

"This facility incorporates the latest energy and water conservation technology, reflecting our focus on sustainable and efficient processes to drive design and ultimately production efficiency.

"The 8500 square metres of rooftop solar, powers a one megawatt system that will greatly reduce operational costs and carbon emissions on site."

Mr Iannello said D'Orsogna chose Victoria for its competitive operating environment, reputation in foods, access to key transport infrastructure and rapidly growing local and export markets.

"D'Orsogna is proudly Australian owned with a focus on quality, growth and local investment and we have ambitious expansion plans over the next few years," he said.



D'Orsogna Board Members Massimo Valentini, Tony Iannello (Chair) and Marco D'Orsogna at D'Orsogna's \$66 million food manufacturing facility at Merrifield Business Park, Melbourne.



Ros Spence, Member for Yuroke and Martin Pakula, Victorian Minister for Jobs Innovation and Trade, at the August 16 opening of D'Orsogna's \$66 million food manufacturing facility at Merrifield Business Park, north of Melbourne.



D'Orsogna Director Marco D'Orsogna (left), a son of Giovanni D'Orsogna, one of the founding brothers, discusses the company's history and future with Victorian Minister for Jobs, Trade and Innovation, Martin Pakula, after the Minister had officially opened the new \$66 million food manufacturing facility in Melbourne.

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Pork Eating Quality Research – a great story, but...

ON behalf of producers, Australian Pork Limited has conducted a number of research trials designed to better understand the consumer's eating experience of Australian pork.

These research findings provide baseline measure of current quality, whilst also identifying several changes that can be implemented to improve various eating characteristics and ultimately, overall quality of Australian pork in the future.

Internationally recognised sampling and testing standards were used to measure consumer preferences for a range of pork cuts, cooked using various methods, from pigs raised and processed under commercial production systems common across the Australian industry.

The research followed a

pathways approach from 'farm to fork' testing various production and processing methods or variables in an effort to understand the level of impact these interventions would have on the eating characteristics and ultimately consumer acceptance of Australian pork.

The findings are largely positive for Australian pork.

The good news is the findings confirm our current production systems deliver consistent quality pork, with consumers rating the majority of our products as good to average quality.

This probably comes as no surprise given the uniformity and consistency of Australian pigs when compared to, say the Australian beef industry which has a far broader range of breeds, production systems and

different ages when cattle are processed, all these variables have an impact on eating quality.

However, the flip side is that with such a uniform production system we found there are no real standout or premium pork cuts identified by consumers.

The research also confirmed there are three major areas of consumer dissatisfaction or potential failure with pork; they include smell and taste (the incidence of boar taint) and tenderness.

Tenderness is specifically a problem for the loin, when grilled, and the silverside, when cooked any other way than as a stir-fry.

These three areas are our major opportunities for improvement and are important because they impact a customer's will-

ingness to repurchase pork after a negative experience.

These potential failure points are also reflected in the results of APL's annual consumer quality survey which identifies the tenderness of pork, especially when grilled and smell and taste as the key negatives for pork.

This survey also highlights external fat as an issue for some customers which is no surprise given a general consumer trend around healthy eating.

We are already seeing an increase in the number of chops, cutlets and steaks with fat and rind removed to address this change in consumer sentiment.

For now, we see this as a cut and fabrication option for supply chains and retailers, rather than a strict eating characteristics issue but it's an area we will

continue to monitor.

Pork has the unique ability to solve what you could describe as 'naughty' (indulgent) as well as 'nice' (healthy) meal needs as we have a range of cut and cook methods to suit every occasion.

The opportunity going forward is to turn this versatility into a competitive advantage for our industry.

Based on these findings APL are now reviewing several interventions to minimise or ideally eliminate the identified failure points, increasing the potential for consumers to have a positive eating experience with Australian pork.

Our ultimate goal is to increase customer preference and purchase frequency for fresh Aussie pork. 

Garry McAlister, APL Category Development Manager



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Ragazzini Pump hard at work.

Effective piggery waste sludge pump

MOVING some animal waste sludge can be a difficult proposition for pumps.

It can be thick and corrosive and is only a job for the right pump, according to industrial pump specialists, Hydro Innovations.

As the waste liquid gets thicker, it becomes much less efficient to use a centrifugal pump, but ideal for the right peristaltic pump says Garry Grant of Hydro Innovations.

"Our Ragazzini hose pumps can move thick piggery slurry comfortably when sized correctly, and with the right tubular element," Garry said.

The pumps use a roller on bearing method to 'squeeze' the tubular element, creating a vacuum on the suction side, enabling pumps to operate on high suction lifts.

The pumps are also capable of delivering pressures up to 15 bar, enabling them to 'push' the sludge mat-

erial over high hills or through long pipe lines.

These pumps are fitted with a leak detection system which will stop the pump and send an alarm if the hose wears.

And it is not a messy or complicated hose change-over because the pump casing is not full of expensive lubricant.

The pumps have no seals or valves, can run dry without damage, and there is no contact between the pumped media and moving parts.

Ragazzini pumps are set up to run slowly to promote longer hose life and they are able to pump good size solids.

Flows from just a few litres per minute up to 180m³/hour can be delivered, depending on pump model.

More information on these pumps can be obtained from info@HydroInnovations.com.au 

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Cost effective farm fire protection

AUSSIE Pump's new weapon this fire season is a big four-inch high-pressure fire pump that's ideal for property and shed protection.

Called the QPT405SLT, it is a cost-effective option for using dam water to supply a fire main for property protection.

The four-inch twin impeller diesel powered fire pump features a three-way outlet.

These means the pump can supply two three-inch discharge hoses or one four-inch hose.

These can be used as a fire main or even set up as a spray system for cooling sheds.

The self-priming pump

uses twin impeller technology to provide high pressure and flow.

It can deliver pressures in excess of 125 psi and flows of up to 46,200 litres per hour.

Its simple design makes it a cost-effective solution that is robust and easy to maintain.

Apart from the exceptional capability, the pump has the ability to self-prime from depths of seven meters.

That's a huge advantage as there is no need to prime the entire suction line prior to starting the pump.

The big pump is powered by a Kohler air cooled diesel engine developing 12kW pow-

er at 3600 rpm.

A big 60L long range fuel tank mounted in the heavy-duty steel base enables the unit to run continuously for up to 16 hours of running times.

The skid mount is a 'sled' design and is fitted as standard with an integrated lifting bar that enables it to be easily moved around the site.

The pump body itself is manufactured from non-corrosive high-grade aluminium.

The twin impellers are also made from heavy duty alloy castings operating within heavy duty volute casings.

The Aussie four-inch pump will prime fast in 20 seconds from low suc-

tion heads and takes up to two minutes to prime from five or six metres.

Aussie Pumps product manager, Brad Farrugia said, "This pump was recently installed on a waste reclamation property supplying the fire main used to protect recycled timber stockpiles.

"This pump was chosen because of its performance and self-priming ability and the feedback from site is very positive."

Further information on the new twin impeller QPT-405SLTD with Kohler air cooled engine is available from Australian Pump Industries or Aussie Pump Distributors throughout Australia.



Veolia's timber recycling facility at Horsley Park is protected from spontaneous combustion by an Aussie self-priming four-inch diesel drive high pressure pump.

Philippines on alert for swine fever as pig deaths rise

REPORTS from local news site, Phil Star, say the authorities in the Philippines are already culling pigs in an area of Luzon and a crisis management team has been established in efforts to contain the possible entry of African swine fever.

The Bureau of Animal Industry has reported an increased mortality of pigs raised by farmers in their backyards, but further laboratory tests were needed to confirm any outbreak of swine fever, Agriculture Secretary William Dar announced on August 19.

The Southeast Asian nation put safeguards in place this past year to protect its \$5 billion hog industry from the highly contagious disease, for which there is no cure and no vaccine.

It has so far banned pork and pork-based products from more than a dozen countries, including Vi-

etnam, Laos and China, where the outbreak has spread throughout the mainland, as well as to Hong Kong.

The crisis team will implement measures to "manage, contain and control the suspected animal disease or diseases," Dar said in a media briefing.

He had directed the bureau to conduct further confirmatory laboratory tests, including sending blood samples to foreign laboratories, to determine the cause of the pigs' deaths.

Dar declined to specify the areas where the deaths occurred and said the tests would be completed in two weeks at the earliest.

The Philippines' import ban also covers pork and pork-based products from Germany, North Korea, Belgium, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Moldova, South Africa, Zambia, and Mongolia.

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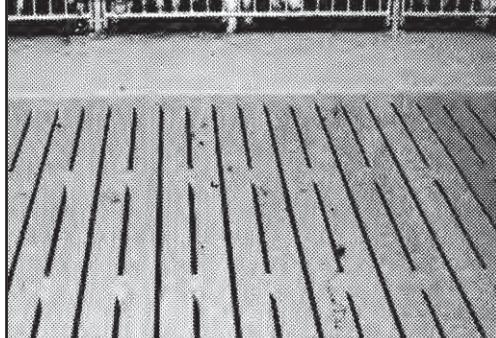
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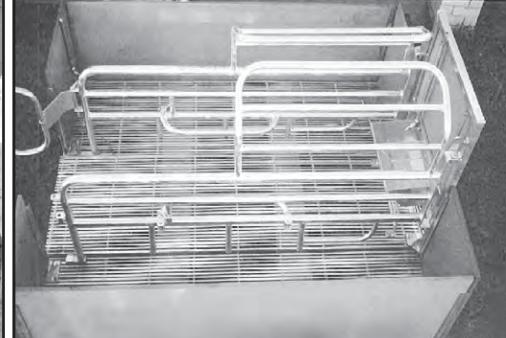
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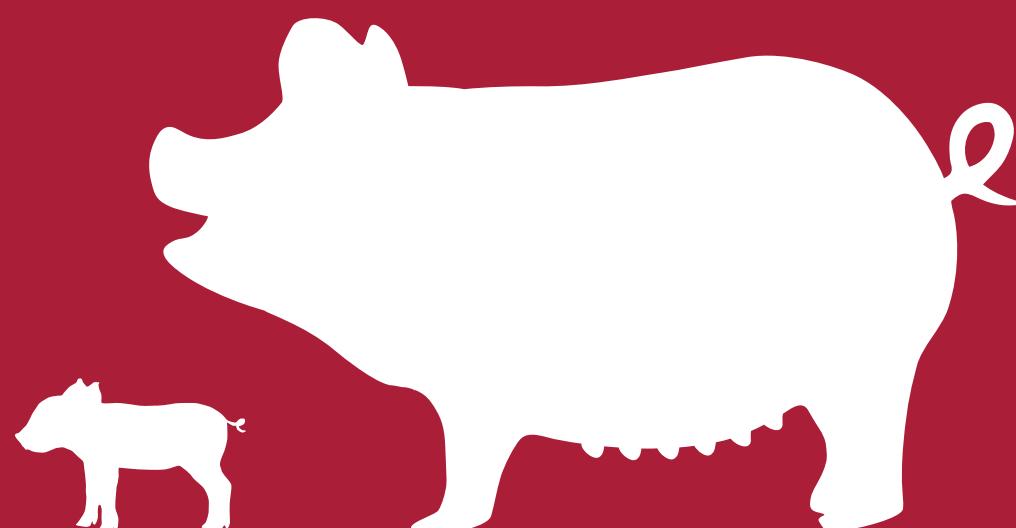
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